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**Governor's Office of Planning & Research**

**September 01 2021**

## **STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

August 31, 2021

Sheri Repp Loadsman  
City of Lomita  
24300 Narbonne Avenue,  
Lomita CA 90717

RE: City of Lomita Housing Element and Safety  
Element Updates – Negative Declaration  
(ND)  
SCH# 2021080206  
GTS# 07-LA-2021-03682  
Vic. LA Multiple

Dear Sheri Repp Loadsman,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The project proposes an amendment to the City of Lomita General Plan to update the Housing and Safety Elements. As required under State Law every eight years, the City of Lomita is preparing an update to the City's Housing Element. The City's existing Housing Element was adopted in 2013 and is set to expire in October 2021. The State Department of Housing and Community Development has provided a Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and the City has been assigned a RHNA of 829 units by SCAG for the upcoming 2021-2029 housing cycle across various income levels. The updated Housing Element will provide the capacity to accommodate the RHNA for the planning period with the necessary goals and policies to ensure adequate development of housing for the City during the housing cycle. The updates to the Safety Element address information and policies intended to minimize the risk to people or property from hazards within the community such as air pollution, extreme heat, flooding, geologic hazards, hazardous materials, wildfires and climate change. These elements are policy documents, and the adoption of these elements would not result in any direct or indirect physical impacts because no development or construction is authorized by this action.

After reviewing the ND, Caltrans does not expect project approval to result in a direct adverse impact to the existing State transportation facilities. However, to accommodate the additional housing units and not induce demand for excessive Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT), Caltrans recommends significantly reducing or eliminating car parking requirements. Program 27 of the proposed Housing Element update discusses this topic for specific Land Uses. This same critical analysis should be considered for all Land Use types, as research looking at the relationship between land-use, parking, and transportation indicates that car parking prioritizes driving above all other travel modes and undermines a community's ability to choose public transit and active modes of transportation. For any community or city to better support all modes of transportation

and reduce vehicle miles traveled, we recommend the implementation of a TDM ordinance, as an alternative to requiring car parking.

If you have any questions, please contact project coordinator Anthony Higgins, at [anthony.higgins@dot.ca.gov](mailto:anthony.higgins@dot.ca.gov) and refer to GTS# 07-LA-2021-03682.

Sincerely,



Miya Edmonson  
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: State Clearinghouse